

SOME PREDICT LANDING TODAY

Russians' Craft Orbits Moon; Soil-sample Rumors Persist

Associated Press

Luna 15 circled the moon every two hours Thursday while Moscow left the world wondering whether the reportedly unmanned Soviet probe was an attempt to steal the show from America's Apollo 11.

Soviet authorities, uncom-

municative as usual about their space efforts, said only that Luna 15 had become a satellite of the moon. This led some Moscow observers to speculate that its mission was completed.

BUT AT Jodrell Bank, England, observatory director Sir Bernard Lovell said that Luna 15 is likely to try to land on the moon and scoop up some soil by this morning.

Success in that would put the Russians a few days ahead of Americans in retrieving a lunar sample.

The Apollo 11 astronauts are due to orbit the moon Saturday and land two men Sunday.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug in a dispatch from Moscow quoted "well-informed Soviet sources" as saying that Luna 15 is scheduled to land on the moon today, pick up soil samples and return to earth with them.

THE SPACESHIP "became another in the series of Soviet lunar satellites," the official Soviet news agency Tass reported. The report was similar to the Tass report on Luna 14, which orbited the moon last year.

"If the Russians intend to put Luna 15 in orbit and just leave it there, the whole operation is incomprehensible," Lovell told reporters.

"In my opinion this is not the end of the exercise but probably the beginning, but I find the whole thing most obscure and at this stage what Luna 15 will do next is largely guesswork."

Four earlier Soviet space-craft were put into lunar orbits. The United States no longer considers such a mission a significant achievement.

SOVIET spokesmen said equipment on board was working normally. Lovell said that it was radiating "heaps" of information.

The Soviet craft went into a lunar orbit about 6 a.m.

Lovell said one difference from previous orbiting Luniks was that rockets to slow the probe were fired while it was behind the moon instead of in front.

Apollo Wives Await Secret Souvenirs

HOUSTON, Texas (AP) — Each Apollo 11 wife expects her husband to bring back a cherished souvenir from the moon, but they prefer not to say what the items are.

"I hope so, I expect so," Mrs. Michael Collins said Thursday when asked if her husband took a personal item on the moon trip to bring back to her. She said the identity of the item was a secret.

"That's private," Mrs. Neil Armstrong said when asked if her husband was carrying a memento for her.

"Yes, he took something very special for me," said Mrs. Edwin Aldrin, "but I'd rather not say what it is."

Nixon Plans World

Trip at Camp David

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — President Nixon flew to his Camp David retreat in Maryland's Catoctin mountains Thursday night to prepare for his globe-circling journey next week.

The President was expected to remain there until sometime Saturday. Mrs. Nixon remained at the White House.

Luna 15 fires mystery bursts

JODRELL BANK, England (UPI)—Apollo 11 mission control asked British scientists today for orbital details of Russia's Luna 15 moonscope, now firing "strange" short bursts of signals from around the moon, British scientists reported.

The scientists tracking Luna 15 at Britain's Jodrell Bank radio telescope said they picked up four bursts of signals during the morning from the Soviet craft which Russian scientific sources in Moscow said would try to land on the moon and scoop up moon soil.

"It was strange that more-than-usual short bursts of telemetry signals were received," Jodrell Bank director Sir Bernard Lovell said.

Lovell said he was unable to predict what Luna 15 might do next in or from its present orbit about 60 miles above the moon's surface.

"We will have to wait and see what happens," Lovell said. "Nothing can be excluded and we reserve judgment as to whether the probe will continue orbiting the moon or what might happen later today."

"So far the only unique feature that it differs in from other lunar orbiters is its precise injection into an extremely low orbit which takes it to within 62 miles of the moon," Lovell said.

"Strange things appeared to be happening" in the fourth burst of signals which lasted 35 minutes this morning.

Luna 15 course change detected

JODRELL BANK, England (UPI) — Luna 15 sailed into a new orbit around the moon Saturday. It appeared likely the unmanned Soviet probe would still be in lunar orbit when the American Apollo 11 begins circuiting the moon later in the day.

Sir Bernard Lovell, director of the Jodrell Bank Observatory, said Luna 15 lengthened its trip around the moon by three to six minutes while making its 27th orbit. The probe had been orbiting every 2 hours 30 seconds.

"If it is going to get out of orbit before Apollo arrives, Lunar 15 has got to move pretty smartly," Lovell said.

He added that he thought the chances that Luna 15 would interfere with the Apollo mission either by

threatening a collision or by disrupting communications were negligible.

Soviet academician Mstislav V. Keldysh, chairman of the Soviet Academy of Science, gave assurances Friday in a message to U.S. astronaut Col. Frank Borman that Luna 15 would not interfere.

Keldysh promised he would notify Borman if Luna's orbit were changed.

19 children lose lives to river

ANGERS, France (UPI) — A sandy riverbank — forbidden to swimmers since 1957 — gave way under 23 chil-